IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a media gateway control command from a media gateway controller to a remote media gateway using a high-level datalink control (HDLC) protocol, the method comprising:

(a)   generating [[a]] the media gateway control command;

(b)   inserting the media gateway control command into a command packet;

(c)   inserting the command packet into an HDLC frame; and

(d)   transmitting the HDLC frame to a media gateway using a time division multiplexed (TDM) channel.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein generating [[a]] the media gateway control command includes generating a MEGAGOMEGACO command.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein generating [[a]] the media gateway control command includes generating a media gateway control protocol (MGCP) command.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein inserting the media gateway control command into [[a]] the command packet includes forming the command packet having a packet header portion and a packet payload portion.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein forming the command packet includes inserting a command flag in the packet header portion that indicates a type of payload contained in the packet payload portion.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 comprising inserting the media gateway control command into an IP packet and wherein inserting the media gateway control command into [[a]] the command packet includes inserting the IP packet in the packet payload portion and inserting a destination interface identifier for the IP packet in the packet header portion.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein inserting the media gateway control command into the command packet includes inserting the media gateway control command in the packet payload portion and inserting a command identifier in the packet header portion for identifying the media gateway control command.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting the HDLC frame to [[a]] the media gateway using [[a]] the TDM channel includes transmitting the HDLC frame from [[a]] the media gateway controller to [[a]] the remote media gateway located remotely from the media gateway controller using [[a]] the TDM channel previously used to carry public switched telephone network (PSTN) data between PSTN switching offices.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein transmitting the HDLC frame to [[a]] the media gateway includes transmitting the media gateway control command from [[a]] the media gateway controller to [[a]] the media gateway local to the media gateway controller and from the local media gateway to the media gateway located remotely from the media gateway controller.

10.   (Currently Amended) A media gateway comprising:

    (a)   a plurality of network interfaces for sending and receiving media streams

to and from external networks;

(b)   a plurality of voice processing resources operatively associated with the network interfaces for processing the media streams received from the external networks;

(c)   a command interface for receiving commands from a media gateway controller;

(d)   a controller operatively associated with the network interfaces and the voice processing resources for controlling the network interfaces and the voice processing resources, the controller being operatively associated with the command interface and ~~being capable of differentiating~~ that differentiates between commands intended for the media gateway and commands intended for a remote media gateway; and

(e)   a high-level data link control (HDLC) interface operatively associated with the controller for encapsulating media gateway control commands intended for the remote media gateway in command packets, encapsulating the command packets in HDLC frames, and for forwarding the HDLC frames to the remote media gateway via a time division multiplexed (TDM) channel.

11.   (Currently Amended) The media gateway of claim 10 wherein the plurality of network interfaces include a plurality of TDM network interfaces for sending and receiving data over TDM channels and wherein the HDLC interface ~~is adapted to send~~ sends the HDLC frames to the TDM network interfaces and the TDM

network interfaces ~~are adapted to send~~ send the HDLC frames to the remote media gateway via the TDM channels.

12.   (Currently Amended) The media gateway of claim 11 wherein the TDM network interfaces provide redundant access to the TDM channels and wherein the controller ~~is adapted to~~ dynamically ~~switch~~ switches between TDM channels for sending the HDLC frames to the remote media gateway in response to failure of one of the TDM channels.

13.   (Original) The media gateway of claim 10 wherein the plurality of network interfaces include a plurality of packet network interfaces for sending and receiving packetized media streams to and from external networks.

14.   (Currently Amended) The media gateway of claim 10 wherein the HDLC interface ~~is adapted to encapsulate~~ encapsulates call control commands intended for the remote media gateway in the command packets, ~~to encapsulate~~ encapsulates the command packets in HDLC frames, and ~~to forward~~ forwards the HDLC frames to the remote media gateway via [[a]] the TDM channel.

15.   (Currently Amended) The media gateway of claim 10 wherein the HDLC interface ~~is adapted to encapsulate~~ encapsulates media gateway maintenance commands intended for the remote media gateway in the command packets, ~~to encapsulate~~ encapsulates the command packets in HDLC frames, and ~~to forward the~~ forwards HDLC frames to the remote media gateway via [[a]] the TDM channel.

16.   (Currently Amended) The media gateway of claim 10 wherein the HDLC interface ~~is adapted to encapsulate~~ encapsulates network management messages

intended for the remote media gateway in the command packets, ~~to encapsulate~~ encapsulates the command packets in HDLC frames, and ~~to forward the~~ forwards HDLC frames to the remote media gateway via [[a]] the TDM channel.

17. (Currently Amended) The media gateway of claim 10 wherein the HDLC interface ~~is adapted to insert~~ inserts a header in the command packet indicating whether a payload of the command packet carries a network management message, a call control message, or a media gateway maintenance message.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a remote media gateway, the system comprising:

(a) a media gateway controller for generating media gateway control commands;

(b) a local media gateway operatively associated with the media gateway controller for sending and receiving media streams to and from external networks;

(c) a high-level data link control (HDLC) interface operatively associated with at least one of the media gateway and the media gateway controller for encapsulating media gateway control commands intended for a remote media gateway ~~controller~~ in HDLC frames; and

(d) at least one time division multiplexed (TDM) interface operatively associated with the HDLC interface for sending the media gateway control commands to the remote media gateway via a TDM channel.

19.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the media gateway controller ~~is adapted to generate~~ <u>generates</u> call control commands intended for the remote media gateway and ~~to forward~~ <u>forwards</u> the call control commands to the remote media gateway via the HDLC interface.

20.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the media gateway ~~is adapted to generate~~ <u>generates</u> network management messages intended for the remote media gateway and ~~to forward~~ <u>forwards</u> the network management messages to the remote media gateway via the HDLC interface.

21.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the media gateway controller ~~is adapted to generate~~ <u>generates</u> media gateway maintenance commands intended for the remote media gateway and ~~to forward~~ <u>forwards</u> the media gateway maintenance commands to the remote media gateway via the HDLC interface.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the HDLC interface and the TDM interface are located on the media gateway controller.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the HDLC interface and the TDM interface are located on the media gateway.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one TDM interface includes a plurality of redundant TDM interfaces for redundantly connecting the media gateway controller to the remote media gateway.

25.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the plurality of redundant TDM interfaces are connected to the local media gateway and wherein the local

media gateway is adapted to detect detects failure of any one of the TDM interfaces and to switch switches HDLC frames from the failed interface to any of the other TDM interfaces.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the plurality of redundant TDM interfaces are connected to the media gateway controller and wherein the media gateway controller is adapted to detect detects failure of any one of the TDM interfaces and to switch switches HDLC frames from the failed interface to any of the other TDM interfaces.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the HDLC interface is adapted to encapsulate the encapsulates media gateway control commands in command packets and to encapsulate encapsulates the command packets in the HDLC frames.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein the HDLC interface is adapted to construct constructs a header for each of the command packets, each header including at least one identifier for indicating a type of media gateway control command included in the command packets.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the TDM interface is adapted to forward forwards the media gateway control commands to the remote media gateway using a TDM link formerly used to carry data between PSTN switching offices.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the media gateway controller is adapted to send sends the media gateway control commands to the

local media gateway and wherein the local media gateway is adapted to determine determines whether the media gateway control commands are addressed to [[it]] the local media gateway or to the remote media gateway.

31.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 wherein the local media gateway processes media gateway control commands that it determines are being addressed to [[it]] the local media gateway and to forward forwards the media gateway control commands that it determines are addressed to the remote media gateway.